

APPLICANTS' REMARKS REGARDING CLAIMS 26-29

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Communication dated May 26, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 26, 2006. In addition to the submission dated March 15, 2006, please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. To the extent necessary, Applicants incorporate Applicants' prior response dated March 15, 2006 by reference.

Claims 26-29

In the response dated March 15, 2006, Applicants added new independent claim 26 and dependent claims 28 – 29. Claim 26 recites a method of processing data for transmission to a remote computer using a data communications protocol stack that includes a plurality of protocol layers. As claimed, the method includes the steps of, beginning with a first protocol layer and for each successively lower layer of the protocol stack, (a) attaching a header associated with a current layer of the protocol stack to the data, (b) reserving a space in the header for an identifier; and (c) sending the data and attached header to the next successive layer in the protocol stack. For reasons given above regarding claims 16 and 24, *Zinky* does not disclose each and every element as set forth in this claim. For example, *Zinky* does not disclose reserving a space in the header for an identifier and sending the data and attached header to the next successive layer in the protocol stack.

Further, *Zinky* does not disclose the steps of, at a lowest successive layer of the protocol stack, generating the identifier, storing the identifier in the reserved space of the lowest successive layer of the protocol stack; and returning a copy of the identifier to a previous layer of the protocol stack, as recited by claims 26-29. This conclusion follows naturally from the fact that *Zinky* does not disclose the previous steps of reserving a space in the header for an identifier and sending the data and attached header to the next successive layer in the protocol stack. As *Zinky* fails to

disclose a method that includes the earlier steps, it does not (and indeed could not) disclose a method that includes the latter steps.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office communication, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

If the Examiner believes any issues remain that prevent this application from going to issue, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact Gero McClellan, attorney of record, at (336) 643-3065, to discuss strategies for moving prosecution forward toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted, and
S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

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